UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1361
19 February 1998

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-third session
(Provisional Agenda items 3 (a) and (b))

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECE REFORM

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. This note reports on the implementation of the ECE reform, one year after the adoption of the Plan of Action by the Commission. It focuses on two main components of the implementation: institutional and substantive. It also provides information on ECE publications in compliance with the request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

2. The Commission may wish to take decisions on the following issues highlighted in the note:

- The renaming of the Meetings of Experts related to WP.29, (para. 10);
- The renaming of the Meetings of Experts related to WP.7, (para. 11);
- The composition of the Bureau of the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, (para. 14);
- The format of the report of the PSB related bodies, (para 15);
- The guidelines for the priority ranking of PSB activities (para.17);
- The review of ECE publications (para 33).

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I. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

3. The institutional aspects of the reform are outlined in Chapter III of the Plan of Action and are related to the Commission, its Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the secretariat.

A. The Commission

4. The organisation of the 52nd session of the Commission was already in line with the prescriptions of the Plan of Action in terms of the length of the session, the sequence of its segments and the time devoted to each of them. The 53rd session completes the implementation of the reform by further reducing the number and length of the secretariat's reports to the Commission.

5. The organisation of the economic debate on the first day will also be in line with the reform. This debate will address more topical issues than in the past, on the basis of the Economic Survey and of the theme of the annual seminar taking place on the eve of the session. Furthermore, it will have a format which will lead to an interactive debate, avoiding individual statements and involving, as keynote speakers, economists from the government, academic, banking and business sectors as well as from international organizations.

B. Principal Subsidiary Bodies

6. For their annual session following the Jubilee Session of the Commission, all PSBs had the implementation of the reform on their agenda. On the basis of a note prepared by the secretariat, they considered the issues outlined in Chapter III of the Plan of Action, in particular: the review of their related bodies, the dates and length of their annual session, the role and composition of their bureaux, the format of their reports and the management of the PSBs' programme of work. All the PSB Bureaux prepared the discussion on the reform and, for this purpose, met with the members of the Bureau of the Commission in charge of following their respective area of work.

1. Review of the PSBs related bodies

7. The chart of the intergovernmental structure annexed to this report presents the outcome of the review made by PSBs. It shows that the objective of the reform, which was to make this structure more homogeneous and transparent, has been reached.

8. A number of Working Parties have been abolished under the Committee on Human Settlements and the Conference of European Statisticians, and replaced by informal entities or meetings. A number of groups of experts have also been discontinued, while three new Ad Hoc Groups of Experts have been created: (on environmental performance, the revision of the TIR Convention and the Extension of European Electricity Interconnections). The review of

the bodies related to the Working Party on Gas has not yet been completed; the Committee on Sustainable Energy will do so at its 1998 annual session.

9. As a result of the review, the ECE intergovernmental structure now comprises: (i) Working Parties of standing character; (ii) Ad Hoc Group of Experts with a two-year duration; (iii) other entities meeting informally, with various denomination e.g. teams of specialists for the Timber Committee, ad hoc meeting for the Conference of European Statisticians, task forces for the Committee on Sustainable Energy, working groups for CEFACT, etc... .

10. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) decided to maintain the standing character of the Meetings of Experts under the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP. 29) and to rename them "Working Parties". **The Commission may wish to confirm this decision.**

11. The Committee on Trade Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) agreed that the Meetings of Experts under the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7) keep their standing character. By analogy with WP.29, **the Commission may wish to rename them "Working Parties"; alternatively it may wish to create "specialized sections" of the WP.7, corresponding to the name of the former Meetings of Experts.**

12. The second option allows a certain flexibility, which might be useful as the pace of harmonizing, revising or extending norms and standards is different according to the technical areas addressed. If the Commission was to choose the second option, it could be applied to other Working Parties involved in normative activities, provided the Commission agrees.

2. Length and dates of the meetings

13. As requested by the Plan of Action, all the annual sessions of the PSBs will be held between January and September as from 1998. The PSBs have also reached the objective of a 3 day duration for their annual session, excepted the Inland Transport Committee which will do so by the deadline which has been fixed (April 1999).

3. PSBs' Bureaux

14. All PSBs have agreed that their Bureaux will have to fulfill the roles assigned to them by the Plan of Action. Those Bureaux which were limited to two or three members have enlarged their composition. Now the PSBs' Bureaux are composed of seven to ten members with a balance between the different parts of the region. One particular case is the Bureau of the CTIED which is composed of the President, one Vice-President and the Chairperson of the Working Parties related to the Committee. This facilitates the integration of new activities, particularly in the field of industry but in the long run, it may introduce some rigidities and hamper arbitration on various requests coming from the Working Parties. **Therefore, the Commission may wish to discuss this type of composition.**

4. Reports

15. The PSBs reports have been reduced in length. They focus on the main conclusion points and decisions taken as provided by the Plan of Action. At the same time, the reports summarize briefly the substantive debates and the information provided by the participants in addition to that contained in the documentation of the secretariat so that countries unable to participate in the meeting can benefit from a translated report. The Plan of Action has no provision on the format of the reports of the PSB related bodies. **The Commission may wish to request the PSBs to encourage the bodies under them to adopt the same format as for their own reports.**

5. Management of the programme of work

16. The plan of action requests the PSBs to rank all activities initiated or underway in order of priority. The PSBs have started to implement this decision but none of them has yet completed this priority ranking. This will be done before the meeting of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work which is expected to take place in Autumn 1998, prior to the preparation of the next programme budget submission by the Executive Secretary. For each PSB, the priority ranking is being prepared either by the Bureau or by a task force specially set up for this purpose.

17. In order to have a common approach for this exercise, **the Committee may wish to provide the following guidelines:**

- the main categories of activities under each PSBs should not be prioritized, as they correspond to the strategic directions decided by the Commission and outlined in Chapter I. of the Plan of Action;

- under each main category of activities, the PSBs should establish an order of priority between the work elements, ranking from 1 to the total of these work elements;

- the timing of the activities related to each work element should be indicated: date of completion for activities limited in time, and date and frequency for recurrent activities.

18. As indicated in the Plan of Action such an exercise will lead to: (i) identifying those work elements which might be suppressed in case of unexpected resource constraints; (ii) opening opportunities to decide on possible new activities to initiate; and (iii) clarifying what are the activities effectively carried out in the course of the current and coming years.

C. Secretariat

19. The structure of the secretariat reflects the orientations of the Plan of Action: the Industry Division has been dismantled, the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections has been renominated Economic Analysis

Division. The Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities has been created. The Data for Economic Analysis Unit (IDEST) has been, for managerial reasons, attached to the Statistical Division.

20. By the end of May, the staff was redeployed in conformity with Annex I of the Plan of Action so that the resources foreseen for each sector were allocated to it.

21. This redeployment which affected some 30 staff members, involved a detailed review of the qualifications of staff on board so as to keep the negative impact on staff to a strict minimum. It was effected after consultations with Division heads, UNOG Personnel Service and the staff members themselves. The resulting staffing structure, provided to member States in July 1997, is given in Annex II.

22. It was subsequently necessary to re-distribute office space in order to maintain the physical integrity of each ECE Division. This involved the moves of some 75 staff members during the period June/September.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS

23. Through the examination of their respective programme of work, the PSBs have applied the substantive directions presented in Chapter I. of the Plan of Action.

24. They have also considered the provisions of Chapter II. related to cross-sectoral issues. In particular they have, to the extent possible, incorporated the cross-sectoral concerns in their programme of work, namely: the outlook for sustainable development, the mainstreaming of the gender-perspective, the special concern for economies in transition and the involvement of the business community.

25. The most important inter-sectoral activity carried out in 1997 was the Ministerial Conference on Transport and the Environment which took place in Vienna. The Conference was attended by 51 Ministers of Transport and the Environment and, in total, 300 delegates from 40 ECE member countries.

26. A Declaration, outlining a set of commitments for promoting sustainable transport systems in the region, and a Programme of Joint Action, containing a corresponding set of policies and measures to be taken at the national and international levels, were adopted and formally signed by 35 ECE member States.

27. In addition, two legally-binding agreements on specific areas related to transport and the environment were opened for signature. 22 countries have already signed the Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections; and 12 countries did the same for a new Protocol to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) of 1991.

28. In addition to the texts adopted, the Conference has succeeded in showing that reconciling transport and the environment is becoming a political priority. The follow up mechanisms cover both the national and the regional levels. For the latter, the ECE is requested to ensure an overall

monitoring of the Programme of Action through joint meetings of the Bureaux of the Inland Transport Committee and of the Committee on Environmental Policy, to which representatives of other European and worldwide institutions will be invited.

29. The first Joint Meeting is expected to take place in June 1998 in order to take stock of preliminary actions taken by member countries, in particular the designation of Focal Points and Lead Actors and to agree on its method of work and initial programme.

III. PUBLICATIONS

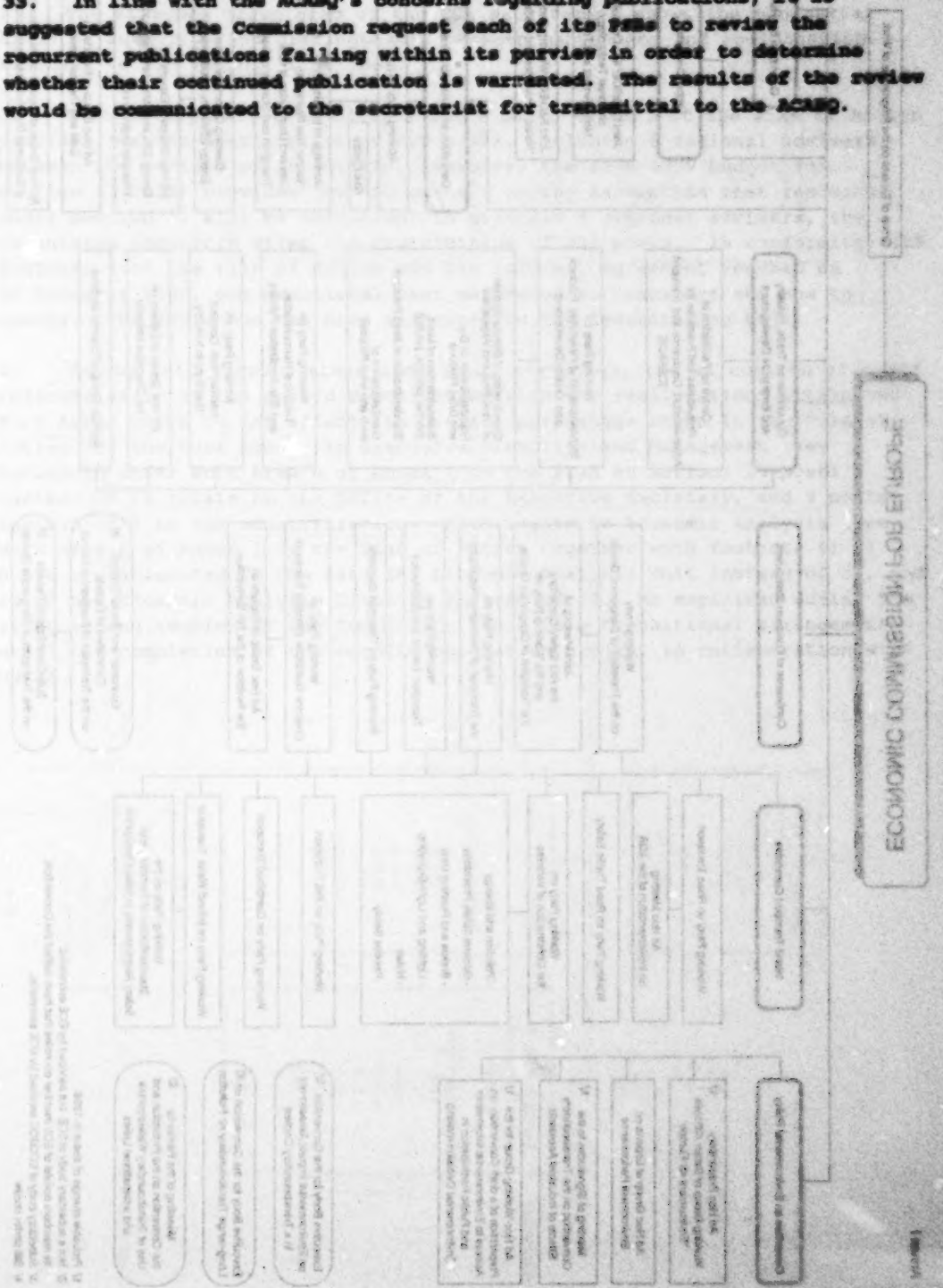
30. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in considering the budgets of the regional commissions, reiterated its view "that the secretariat should indicate to the relevant intergovernmental bodies the number, type, cost and audience of each publication, both recurrent and non-recurrent, the date intended for publication, the date when each publication was first requested, who requested such publication and when it was last reviewed and by whom". This information is contained in document E/ECE/1361/Add.1 in tabular form for each of the Commission's areas of activity based on the proposed publications programme for the 1998-1999 biennium.

31. In total there 97 titles in ECE's 1998/1999 publications programme, of which 39 are recurrent publications and 58 are non-recurrent. These publications are included as programme element outputs in the work programme approved by each PSB. The 98 titles relate to the following sectors of activity:

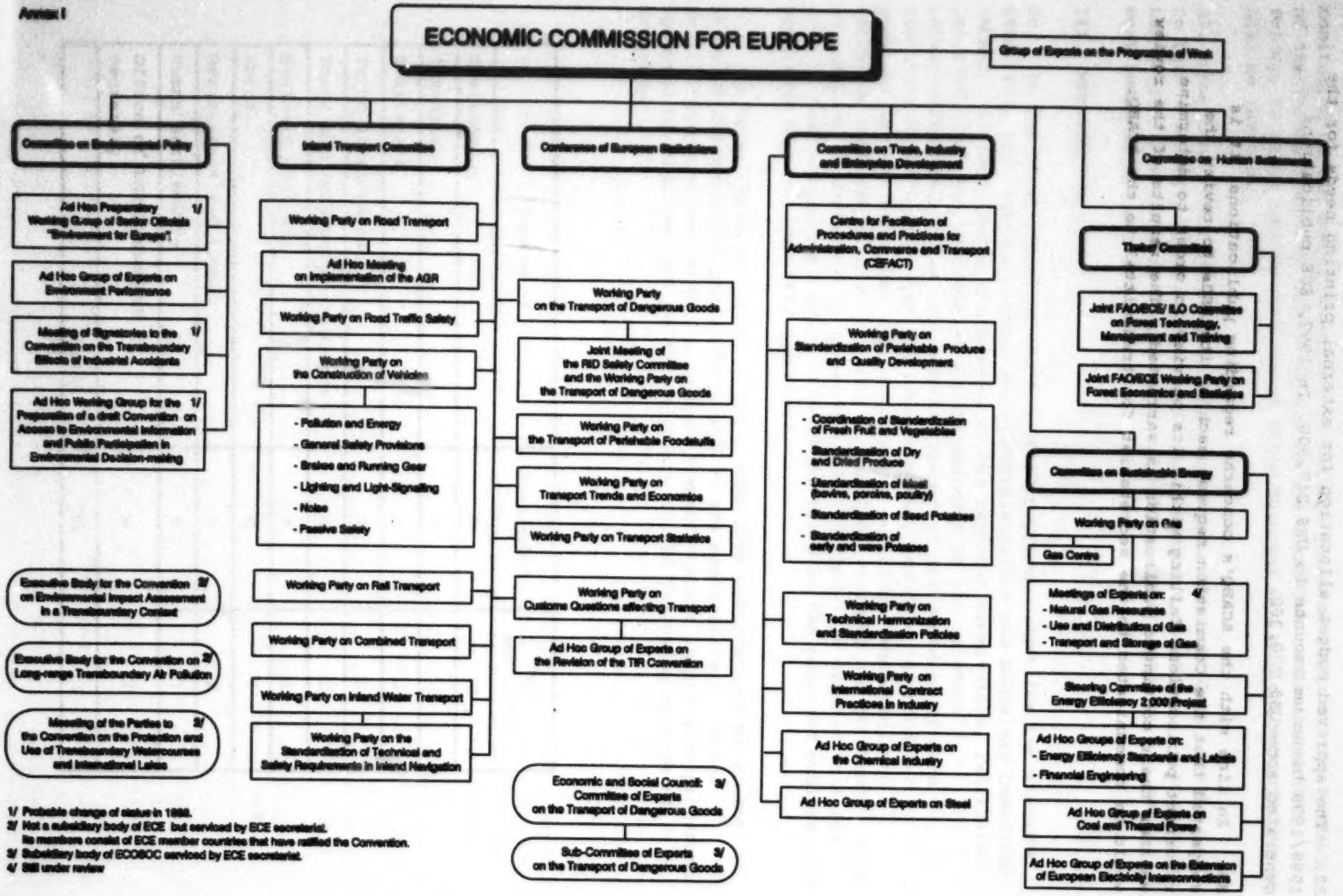
Sector	Recurrent	Non-recurrent
Environment	4	16
Transport	8	10
Statistics	2	3
Trade facilitation	5	2
Trade and enterprise development	6	12
Economic analysis	4	1
Energy	0	2
Agriculture and timber	5	2
Human settlements	1	7
Office of the Executive Secretary	4	3
Total	39	58

32. The approved budget allocation for external printing needs for the 1998/1999 biennium amounts to US$ 217,900. In 1997, ECE publications generated some US$ 270,362.

33. In line with the ACABQ's concerns regarding publications, it is suggested that the Commission request each of its PSBs to review the recurrent publications falling within its purview in order to determine whether their continued publication is warranted. The results of the review would be communicated to the secretariat for transmittal to the ACABQ.



Annex I


ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Group of Experts on the Programme of Work
Committee on Environmental Policy
Inland Transport Committee
Conference of European Statisticians
Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
Committee on Human Settlements
Timber Committee
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" 1/
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Environment Performance
Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents 1/
Ad Hoc Working Group for the Preparation of a draft Convention on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making 1/
Executive Body for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context 2/
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution 2/
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes 2/
Working Party on Road Transport
Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the AGR
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
- Pollution and Energy
- General Safety Provisions
- Brakes and Running Gear
- Lighting and Light-Signalling
- Noise
- Passive Safety
Working Party on Rail Transport
Working Party on Combined Transport
Working Party on Inland Water Transport
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
Working Party on Transport Statistics
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Revision of the TIR Convention
Economic and Social Council: 3/ Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Sub-Committee of Experts 3/ on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
- Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
- Standardization of Meat (bovine, porcine, poultry)
- Standardization of Seed Potatoes
- Standardization of early and ware Potatoes
Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies
Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Steel
Joint FAO/ECE/ ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
Working Party on Gas
Gas Centre
Meetings of Experts on: 4/
- Natural Gas Resources
- Use and Distribution of Gas
- Transport and Storage of Gas
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2 000 Project
Ad Hoc Groups of Experts on:
- Energy Efficiency Standards and Labels
- Financial Engineering
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Extension of European Electricity Interconnections

1/ Probable change of status in 1998.
2/ Not a subsidiary body of ECE but serviced by ECE secretariat.
Its members consist of ECE member countries that have ratified the Convention.
3/ Subsidiary body of ECOSOC serviced by ECE secretariat.
4/ Still under review

ANNEX II

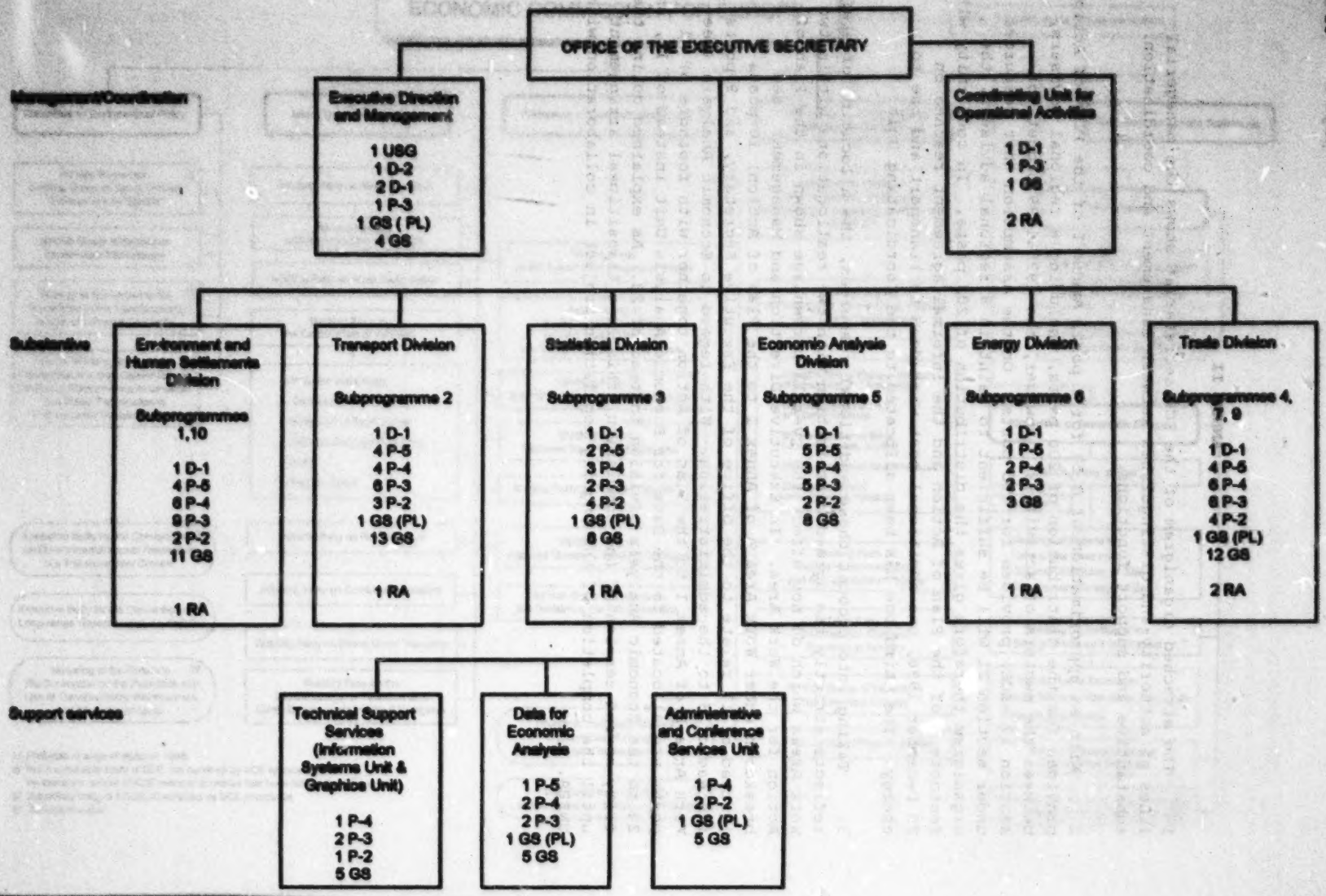
1 The attached organigram of the ECE secretariat shows the managerial lines of authority and distinguishes between management and coordination, substantive and support functions.

2. With an approximation of 0.5% for 1 post, Annex I of the Plan of Action provides for the distribution of 200 posts, including 8 regional advisers, between the sectors of activities. However, the 1998-1999 budget for section 17 (ECE) provides for 195 posts. On the assumption that resources under section 21 will be sufficient to maintain 8 regional advisers, the organigram therefore gives the distribution of 203 posts. In conformity with footnote 4 of the Plan of Action and the informal agreement reached on 20 December 1996, one additional post was added to transport and one to energy. The third one has been allocated to the Coordinating Unit.

3. Taking into account these additional resources, the allocation of staff reflects strictly the agreed distribution with two reallocations within two Work Areas which do not affect the overall percentage shown in the Plan of Action for the Work Area. In Executive Direction and Management (see breakdown under Work Area A of Annex I to the Plan of Action) 10 posts instead of 11 relate to the Office of the Executive Secretary, and 9 posts instead of 8 to the administration. With regard to Economic Analysis (see Work Area E of Annex I to the Plan of Action together with footnote 6) 11 posts are allocated to the Data for Economic Analysis Unit instead of 12, and 24 to the Economic Analysis Division instead of 23. As explained during the fifty-second session of the Commission, this is a transitional arrangement until the completion of the ongoing population project in collaboration with UNFPA.

ANNEX II

ORGANIGRAM OF THE ECE SECRETARIAT



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In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in considering the budgets of the regional commissions, reiterated its view "that the secretariat should indicate to the relevant intergovernmental bodies the number, type, cost and audience of each publication, both recurrent and non-recurrent, the date intended for publication, the date when each publication was first requested, who requested such publication and when it was last reviewed and by whom". This information is provided below in tabular form for each of the Commission's areas of activity based on the proposed publications programme for the 1998-1999 biennium.

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PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

ENVIRONMENT

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Environment									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	ECE Water Series, No. 4 and No. 5	Regulations	Policy makers in Environment Ministries and NGOs	1998 and 1999	July 1997	Meeting of Parties to the ECE Water Convention	March 1998	Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	E 9,302 F 5,124 R 1,984
2.	Air Pollution Studies	Policy study	Parties, scientific community, public	1998 and 1999	December 1997	Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)	To be reviewed annually	Executive Body to CLRTAP	E 8,754 F 3,550 R 1,370

* Although estimated production costs are provided for each language version of all publications appearing in this document, it is to be noted that because of financial restraints many publications are not translated.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
3.	ECE Environment Series	Policy study	Policy makers, Ministries, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Convention	1999	May 1998	Meeting of the Parties to the (EIA) Convention	Not yet reviewed	Not yet reviewed	E 5,336 F 2,876 R 685
4.	Major Review of Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement	Policy study	Parties, institutions, academic, NGOs, public	1999	1988	Executive Body to CLRTAP	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	E 12,864 F 3,216 R 1,608 Cover printed externally 4,600
Non Recurrent Publications									
5.	Booklet/fact sheet on Water Convention	Information material	General distribution	1998 and 1999	July 1997	Parties to the ECE Water Convention	March 1998	Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	E 876
6.	Protocol to the Water Convention on water-related disease	Legal text	Policy/law makers, NGOs	1999	Expected to be requested in June 1999	1999 London Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health	Not yet reviewed		E/F/R 5,292

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
7.	Proceedings of the Aarhus Ministerial Conference	Policy report	Policy makers, Ministries	1998	Expected to be published in June 1998	"Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference at Aarhus	Not yet reviewed		E 5,193
8.	Ministerial Conference, Key Documents	Policy report	Policy makers, Ministries	1998	Expected to be requested in June 1998	"Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference at Aarhus	Not yet reviewed		E 4,511 F 2,003 R 822
9.	Convention on Public Participation	Legal text	Policy and law makers, Ministries, NGOs, international organizations	1998	Expected to be published in June 1998	"Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference at Aarhus	Not yet reviewed		E 923 F 505 R 137
10.	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Legal Protocol	Parties, institutions, academic, NGOs, public	1998	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	E 3,216 F 2,189 R 1,181
11.	Protocol on Heavy Metals	Legal Protocol	Parties, institutions academic, NGOs, public	1998	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	E 1,860 F 1,733 R 657

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
12.	Brochure on CLRTAP in context of "Environment for Europe"	Information material	Parties, institutions academic, NGOs, public	1998	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	December 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP	E 1,204 F 328 R 220
13.	Environmental Performance Review, Moldova	Policy study	Environmental Managers	1998	January 1996	Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP)	March 1998	CEP Peer Review	Covers for all the Environmental Performance Reviews printed externally 6,000 for the biennium
14.	Environmental Performance Review, Lithuania	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1998	January 1997	CEP	Expected to be reviewed in Sept. 1998	CEP Peer Review	E 5,193
15.	Environmental Performance Review, Latvia	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1998	January 1997	CEP	Expected to be reviewed in Sept. 1998	CEP Peer Review	E 5,193

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$[a]
16.	Environmental Performance Review, Kazakhstan	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1999	May 1997	CEP	To be determined	CEP	E 5,193
17.	Environmental Performance Review,Ukraine	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1999	May 1997	CEP	To be determined	CEP	E 5,193
18.	Environmental Performance Review, Croatia	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1999	May 1997	CEP	To be determined	CEP	E 5,193
19.	Environmental Performance Review,Albania	Policy study	Environmental Ministries	1999	May 1997	CEP	To be determined	CEP	E 5,193
20.	Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and Related Substances	Legal Protocol	Parties, institutions, academic, NGOs, public	1999	Dec. 1997	Executive Body to CLRTAP Executive Body ECE/EB/AIR.53	Dec. 1997	Executive Body to the CLRTAP	E 3,692 F 2,186 R 2,020

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

TRANSPORT

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Transport									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), 2 Vols, established by ECE member States	Multilateral Treaty Regulations, technical standards	Government administrations, Transport Ministries (Police, Customs, Emergency Services), chemical /petroleum industry, tank industry, vehicle manufactures, road hauliers	1998	1957	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	Nov. 1997	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	E 57,254 F 25,062 R 5,617 Cover and colour pages printed externally 12,000
2.	Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe	Statistical Bulletin	Statisticians, policy researchers	1998 and 1999	1950	Conference of European Statisticians (CES)	1992	Taken over by Working Party on Transport Statistics in 1998	E/F/R 9,526

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
3.	Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe	Statistical Bulletin	Statisticians, policy researchers	1998 and 1999	1950	CES	1992	Taken over by Working Party on Transport Statistics in 1998	E/F/R 31,878
4.	European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), established by ECE member States	Recommended regulations, technical standards	Administrations (Transport ministries, police, customs emergency services) chemical/petroleum industry, shipbuilders, classifications societies	1998	January 1964	Inland Transport Committee (ITC)	June 1996	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	E 23,044 F 9,839 R 2,192 Cover and colour pages printed externally 8,000
5.	ECOSOC Recommendations on Transport of Dangerous Goods	Recommended regulations	Governments, transport organizations (UN Reg. Com, IMO, ICAO, etc.), chemical/petroleum industry, transport sector (road, rail), inland waterways (air, sea) packaging/tank industry	1999	May 1955	ECOSOC Com. of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	Dec. 1996	ECOSOC Com. of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	Printed externally, cover and document E 60,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
6.	ECOSOC Recommendations on Transport of Dangerous Goods - Tests and Criteria	Standards	Governments, chemical/petroleum industry, test laboratories	1999	1984	ECOSOC Com. of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Res. 1985/9)	1994	ECOSOC Com. of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Res. 1995/5)	E 27,373
7.	Transport Information	Public information	Governments, private transport sector	1999	1989 (50th session	ITC (50th session)	1993	ECE Secretariat	Printed externally 20,00
8.	TIR Handbook	Legal and technical guide	Customs authorities and international transport operators	1999	October 1983	TIR Administ-rative Committee	August 1995	ECE Secretariat	E 4,075 F 822
Non Recurrent Publications									
9.	Map of Inland Waterways	Map	Governments, shipping cos., pleasure boat owners	1998	November 1994	Working Party on Inland Navigation	Novem-ber 1997	Working Party on Inland Navigation	Printed externally 3,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
10.	European Code for Inland Waterways-CEVNI	Recommended regulations	Governments, shipping cos, pleasure boat owners	1998	November 1993	Working Party on Inland Navigation	Novem-ber 1997	Working Party on Inland Navigation	E 4,240 F 2,460 R 992 E Cover plus Colour pages printed externally 6,000
11.	Glossary Transport Statistics	Glossary	Statisticians, policy researchers	1998	1992	Inter-secretariat Working Group ECE/EURO STAT/Euro-pean Conference of Ministers of Transport.	1994	Inter-secretariat Working Group ECE/EURO STAT/Euro-pean Conference of Ministers of Transport.	E 6,533 F 2,424 R 657
12.	Map of E-Road Network	Map	Statisticians, policy researchers	1998	Sept. 1975	Working Party on Road Transport	1996	Working Party on Road Transport	Printed externally 3,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
13.	Inventory of existing European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC)) standards and parameters	Technical standards	Ministries of transport, railway companies and combined transport operators	1998	1995	Working Party on Rail Transport	1997	Working Party on Rail Transport	E 2,597 Maps external 3,000
14.	Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E Waterway network (Blue book)	List of standards	Government, shipping cos.	1999	October 1996	Working Party on Inland Navigation	January 1997	ITC	E 2,597 Maps external 3,000
15.	Inventory of existing European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) standards and parameters	Technical standards	Ministries of transport, railway companies and combined transport operators	1998	June 1991	ECE Working Party on Combined Transport	To be reviewed in 1998	ECE Working Party on Combined Transport	E 2,597 Maps external 3,000
16.	Acts and Decisions of the Conference on Transport and Environment	Proceedings of Conference	Ministries of Transport and Environment, international organizations concerned	1998	Jan. 1998	ITC	Not yet reviewed		E 5,062 F 2,323 Cover external 3,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
17.	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable foodstuffs and on the special equipment to be used for such carriage (ATP)	Multilateral Treaty Regulations, technical standards	Governments, especially Ministries of Transport, Health, Agriculture, Road hauliers, vehicle constructers	1999	1970	Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	Nov. 1997	Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	E 9,932
18.	Map of European Railways Network	Map	Governments	1999	1988	Working Party on Rail Transport	1997	Working Party on Rail Transport	Printed externally 3,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

STATISTICS

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Statistics									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	Trends in Europe and North America	Information material/statistical yearbook	A wide audience of users of international statistics, including the news media, government and international officials, business people, students and the general public	1998 and 1999	1995	Conference of European Statisticians (CES)	1996	Bureau of the CES. After the first issue in 1995, all statistical offices of ECE member countries were asked for suggestions for how to improve the yearbook	Estimated cost of 20,000 for external printing for the biennium: 10,000 per year

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
2.	World Industrial Robots	Research monograph	Industrial policy agencies (ministries of industries), industry associations, research associations, national statistical offices, international organizations, industrial robot companies and other companies using or producing systems for industrial automation	1998 and 1999	1992	ECE Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation	1997	Joint informal meeting of ECE and International Federation of Robotics' expert group. Also proof read by specialist in the robot industry.	E 24,832
Non Recurrent Publications									
3.	Recommendation for the Publishing of Statistical Metadata on Internet in the ECE/CES statistical standards and studies series	Technical guide	National statistical offices	1998	1996	CES	October 1997	Bureau of the CES	E 11,149 F 4,621

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
4.	Statistical Data Editing methods and techniques, Vol.III, in the ECE/CES statistical standards and studies series	Technical guide	National statistical offices, international organizations	1999	1996	CES	October 1997	Work Session on Statistical Data Editing of the CES	E 11,149
5.	International Comparison of GDP in Europe in the ECE/CES statistical standards and studies series	Research monograph	Ministries of finance, national statistical offices, international organizations	1999	1996	CES	To be reviewed in June 1998	Joint Meeting hosted by the Austrian Statistical Office. To be attended by ECE/OECD / World Bank/ EURO-STAT	E 11,149 F 8,388 R 1,918

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

TRADE FACILITATION

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Trade Facilitation									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	UN/TDID Trade Data Interchange Directory, published on diskettes, 2 issues per year	Technical standards	Users of electronic data interchange in both the public and private sectors	2 in 1998 and 2 in 1999	1987	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) *	Reviewed annually Last reviewed in 1997	The Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)	Published on diskette If printed E 205,110
2.	United Nations Code for Ports and other Locations (LOCODE), published on diskette	Technical standards	Users of electronic data interchange in both the public and private sectors	1998 and 1999	1980	WP.4 *	Reviewed annually Last reviewed in 1997	CEFACT	Published on diskette. Estimated cost if printed unavailable

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
3.	UN/TDED- Trade Data Elements Directory	Technical standards	Users of electronic data interchange in both the public and private sectors	1998 and 1999	1982	W.P. 4 *	Reviewed annually Last reviewed in 1997	CEFACT	$ 52,565
4.	Connections The UN/ECE Electronic Handbook on Trade Facilitation, published on CD-ROM	Technical information	Public and private sector working with facilitation of international trade procedures	1998 and 1999	1996	Secretariat initiative	Reviewed annually	CEFACT	Published on CD-Rom, UN Sales Unit covers cost. Cover printed externally 6,000

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
5.	CEFACT Annual Report	Proceedings	Public and private sector working with facilitation of international trade procedures	1998 and 1999	1998	Secretariat initiative	To be reviewed annually	CEFACT	E 4,064 F 1,737 R 2,336 Cover printed externally for E version, 3000 for the bicentium
Non Recurrent Publications									
6.	Promotional Brochure for UN/EDIFACT	Information material	Public and private sector working with facilitation of international trade procedures	1998 and 1999	1997	Secretariat initiative	To be reviewed in 1998	CEFACT	Printed Externally E 3,000
7.	Trade Facilitation and UN/EDIFACT Training manual	Training manual	Public and private sector working with facilitation of international trade procedures	1998 and 1999	1996	Secretariat initiative	To be reviewed in 1998	CEFACT	E 6,780

*Estimated fore the Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

TRADE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Trade and Enterprise Development									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	The Chemical Industry - Annual Review	Market survey	Private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1998 and 1999	1973	Chemical Industry Committee	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry *	E 16,222 F 9,425 R 4,067
2.	The Steel Market and Prospects	Market survey	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1947	Commis-sion	1997	Working Party on Steel **	E 13,666 F 7,953 R 3,235
3.	Statistics of World Trade in Steel	Statistical	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1950	Steel Committee	1997	Working Party on Steel **	E/F/R 16,040
4.	Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe, America and Asia	Statistical	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1950	Steel Committee	1997	Working Party on Steel **	E/F/R 24,694
5.	Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products	Statistical	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1974	Chemical Industry Committee	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry *	E/F/R 38,474
6.	Iron and Steel Scrap, 8th updating	Market survey	Same as above	1999	1979	Steel Committee	1997	Working Party on Steel **	E 5,918 F 4,109 R 1,027

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Non Recurrent Publications									
7.	Booklet on ECE/Trade Division	Information materials	Governments, private sector, general public	1998	1996	Committee on the Development of Trade ***	1997	Committee on Trade, Industry, and Enterprise Development	E 1,416 F 1,120 R 485 External cover 1,500
8.	Intergovernmental Agreement on Technical Harmonization	Legal, regulations	Governments, policy makers, private sector	1999	1996	Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)	1997	Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)	E 3,776 F 2,986 R 1,140 External Cover 1,500
9.	Guide on BOT	Regulations, policy issues	Same as above	1998	1996	Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, (WP.5)	1997	Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (WP.5)	E 3,776 F 2,986 R 1,140 External Cover 1,500

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
10.	Guide on Real Property Issues	Policy and legal issues	Same as above	1998	1997	Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, (WP.5)	To be reviewed in 1998	Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, (WP.5)	E 3,776 F 1,858 R 1,671 External Cover 1,500
11.	Study on Chemical Industry	Policy study	Private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1999	1971	Chemical Industry Committee	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry *	E 8,4543 F 3,933 R 2,533
12.	Directory of Chemical Producers and Products	Directory of chemical industry companies	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1991	Working Party on the Chemical Industry	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry	E 12,450 External covers 3,600 for the biennium
13.	Comparative Data Bank on Chemical Legislation	Legal issues on CD Rom	Lawyers, private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1998	1995	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	20,000 adaptation of software E/F 2,500 for 500 diskettes. Cost covered by UN Sales Unit

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
14.	Report on the clean-up of sites polluted by chemicals	Technical report	Private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1998	1995	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	E 8,454 F 5,684 R 2,533
15.	Guide on Legal Issues for Transition Economies	Policy and legal issues	Lawyers, private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1999	1997	Working Party on Interna-tional Contract Practices in Industry, (WP.5)	1997	Working Party on Interna-tional Contract Practices in Industry, (WP.5)	E 3,776 F 2,986 R 1,140 External cover 1,500
16.	Standardization Issues in Transition Economies	Policy issues	Lawyers, private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1999	1996	Committee on the Develop-ment of Trade***	1997	Committee on Trade, Industry, and Enterprise Develop-ment	E 3,776 F 1,858 R 1,671 External cover 1,500
17.	Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies	Technical compendium and Directory of companies in the sector	Private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1999	1994	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	1997	Working Party on the Chemical Industry*	E 8,455 F 5,684 R 2,532
18.	Study on Shift of International Trade Flows in Steel 1987-1997	Economic policy study	Private sector, Ministries, libraries, professional organizations	1999	1997	Working Party on Steel **	Not yet reviewed		E 6,062 F 3,980 R 1,745

*Now converted into an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry
** Now converted into an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Steel
***Transformed into the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
Economic Analysis									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	Economic Survey of Europe	Economic research and analysis/review of economic developments/ policy discussion	Economists, economic policy makers in government and national administration of ECE member countries, academic research institutes, the private enterprise sector, other international institutions; and all with professional interest in economic developments in eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the CIS.	3 issues in 1998 and 3 issues in 1999	1948	The Commission	1996 and 1997	In 1996 by the Commission in the context of its in-depth review of its programme of work and in 1997 by WIDER (Helsinki) as part of EC-ESA's review of UN flagship publications; and also by the Melitor-Ohlin report on duplication within the UN system.	E 46,404 F 15,498 R 9,036 External covers for the Survey for the biennium 10,800

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
2.	Economic Studies	Same as above	Same as above	2 issues in 1998 and 2 issues in 1999	1988	The series was initiated by the Executive Secretary of ECE	Has not yet been reviewed		E 27,118 External cover 3,600 Costs covered by UN Sales
3.	Ageing Country Reports	Same as above	Same as above	5 issues in 1998 and 5 issues in 1999	1992	Project agreement between ECE and the United Nations Population Fund	January 1996	UNFPA/ECE Evaluation Mission on Three UNFPA-assisted Projects of the Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the UN/ECE	E 61,952

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
4.	Fertility Country Reports	Same as above	Same as above	8 in 1998 and 8 in 1999	1992	Project agreement between ECE and the United Nations Population Fund	January 1996	UNFPA/ECE Evaluation Mission on Three UNFPA-assisted Projects of the Population Activities Unit (PAU) of the UN/ECE	E 79,184
Non Recurrent Publications									
5.	Report on Population and related developments in transition countries	Same as above	Same as above	1999	1996	Project agreement between ECE and the United Nations Population Fund	Has not yet been reviewed		E 10,169

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

ENERGY

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
Energy									
Recurrent Publications									
	None								
Non Recurrent Publications									
1.	**ECE International Classification of Coal in Seams**	**Norms and standards**	**Governments, coal industry and international coal organizations**	**1998**	**1997**	**Committee on Sustainable Energy**	**Not yet reviewed**		**E/F/R 1,045**
2.	**Underground Gas Storage**	**Technical study**	**Governments, Gas companies**	**1999**	**1996**	**Working Party on Gas**	**Expected to be reviewed in 1998**	**Working Party on Gas**	**E 3,697**

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

TIMBER AND AGRICULTURE

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$*
Timber/Agriculture									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	Timber Bulletin (6 issues per year)	Statistical information for the international policy discussions, Market analysis	Government officials, International organizations NGOs, trade organizations and businesses enterprises, academic community and researchers	1998 and 1999	1948	Timber Committee	1997	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics; and Timber Committee	E 12,486 F 11,464 R 3,946
2.	Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers (4 issues per year)	Policy studies, Analytical publication	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1948	Timber Committee	1997	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics; and Timber Committee	E 10,156 F 9,060 R 4,266 2000 (external) in 1999, cover for one issue
3	Timber Committee Yearbook 1998	Information material	Same as above and general public	1998 and 1999	1994	Timber Committee	1997	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics; and Timber Committee	E 1,846 F 1,352 R 410
4.	Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Papers (4 issues in 1998 and 6 issues in 1999) (original language) E or F	Policy studies, Analytical publication	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1994	Timber Committee	1997	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics; and Timber Committee	E or F 14,678

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$[a]
5..	International Forest Fire News (2 issues per year)	Studies and research, Information material	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1988	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	1996	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	E 5,062
Non Recurrent Publications									
6.	Revised Standards for Dry and Dried Fruit	Agricultural Standards	Trade and agricultural standards experts, customs officials	1998	1961	Working Party on Standardization and Perishable Produce	1997	Reviewed and updated annually by the W.P. on Standardization and Perishable Produce	E 4,788 F 2,295 R 2,832
7..	Revised Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes	Agricultural Standards	Same as above	1999	1961	Working Party on Standardization and Perishable Produce	1997	Reviewed and updated annually by the W.P. on Standardization and Perishable Produce	E 479 F 230 R 141

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
Human Settlements									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe	Statistics	Central Governments	1998 and 1999	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	Not yet reviewed	-	E/F/R 3,555
Non Recurrent Publications									
2.	Country Profile on the Housing Sector, First country	Specific policy issues	Central and local Governments, NGOs	1998	Sept. 1996	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 3,555 F 1,232 R 1,164
3.	Country Profile on the Housing Sector, Second country	Specific policy issues	Central and local Governments, NGOs	1998	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	Not yet reviewed	-	E 3,555 F 1,232 R 1,164
4.	Study on Major Trends	Research monograph	Researchers, administrators, policy makers	1998 and 1999	Sept. 1995	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 4,478 F 658 R 658
5.	Case Studies on Sustainable Development Policies	Policy (case) study	Government officials and policy makers	1998 and 1999	Sept. 1996	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 4,844 F 1,232 R 876

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type of Publication	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
6.	Case Studies on Urban Renewal	Policy (case) study	Government officials and policy makers	1998 and 1999	1996	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 4,478 F 658 R 658
7.	Land Administration	Specific policy issues	Central and local Governments, NGOs	1999	Sept. 1996	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 3,555 F 740 R 685
8.	Country Profile on the Housing Sector, Third country	Specific policy issues	Central and local governments, NGOs	1999	Sept. 1996	Committee on Human Settlements	Sept. 1997	Committee on Human Settlements	E 3,555 F 740 R 685

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

No.	Title of Publication	Type	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
Office of the Executive Secretary									
Recurrent Publications									
1.	ECE Highlights, quarterly newsletter containing a round-up of ECE activities, prominent events and review of recent publications.	Information material	Government officials, NGOs, professional organizations and businesses, the academic community, libraries and the general public	1998 and 1999	September 1989	Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) initiative in response to the need for furthering awareness of information regarding ECE activities among member States,other United Nations ogs., NGOs and the public at large	1996	OES	E. 3.546 Paper ordered externally for biennium 2,100

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME 1998/1999

No.	Title of Publication	Type	Target Audience	Pub. Date	When First Requested	By Whom	When Last Reviewed	By Whom	Estimated Cost in US$ *
2.	Catalogue of ECE Publications	Information material	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1993	OES initiative	1996	OES	E 4,432
3.	ECE Who's Who	Directory of ECE Staff Members, Information material	ECE staff, UN secretariat, ECE member States	1998 and 1999	1996	OES initiative	To be updated in 1998	ECE Press Officer	E 5,252 F 2,788
4.	Guide of ECE	Information material on objectives and work of ECE	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1997	ECE Press Officer	Not yet reviewed		E 2,342 F 1,210 R 1,210
Non Recurrent Publications									
5.	ECE General Information Brochure	Information material	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1989	ECE Press Officer	1996	OES	E 658 F 348 R 246
6.	Brochure on ECE and Daily Life in the Region	Information material	Same as above	1998 and 1999	1997	ECE Press Officer	1996	OES	4,900 cartoons and layout printed externally.
7.	Sector Specific Brochures	Information material	Specialists in the specific sectors covered, public, academics	1998 and 1999	1997	ECE Press Officer	Not yet reviewed		Printed externally 8,000

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1362
24 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Fifty-third session
(Provisional agenda item 3(c))

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM: RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

For the review of the Regional Commissions by ECOSOC which will "evaluate the most appropriate division of labour with regard to both standard-setting and technical cooperation activities and prospects for further rationalization and consolidation", it is proposed to base the ECE contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on the Plan of Action, the note on Operational Activities (E/ECE/1359) and the present note and to take into account views expressed by the Commission on these matters at the 53rd session.

The note shows that the best way to secure fruitful cooperation among dynamic institutions, and at the same time to avoid duplication and inconsistency, is for the secretariats to maintain a regular dialogue and for governments to exercise continuous scrutiny and to properly inform their representatives in different fora. The note also shows that good cooperation exists between ECE and other institutions and takes many forms. The Commission may wish to encourage actions taken or envisaged as described in paragraphs 14, 20, 23, 31, 45, 51, 66 and 67 and may eventually single out modalities which it prefers.

GE.98-20488

1. This note reviews the relations between ECE and other regional, subregional and global institutions which have activities of the same nature and in the same areas as ECE and whose membership includes all or some ECE countries. Relations with subregional groupings and initiatives, where cooperation is primarily focused on operational activities, are discussed in document E/ECE/1359.

2. The note has been prepared taking into account the Plan of Action which sets forth the principles and mechanisms to govern relations with other institutions active in the region and the proposal of the Secretary-General, approved by the General Assembly, that ECOSOC consider the "core competencies of the Regional Commissions vis-à-vis global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies" in order to "evaluate the most appropriate division of labour with regard to both standard-setting and technical cooperation activities and prospects for further rationalization and consolidation."

3. Because in practice, inter-institutional cooperation is extremely specific and largely dependent on the persons involved, both in governments and in the institutions themselves, the review below is conducted institution by institution. Nevertheless, it is possible to make some general remarks on the issues of consistency, complementarity and cooperation in respect of products common to ECE and its partner institutions i.e. policy analyses and publications; conventions, norms, standards and policy guidelines; and technical assistance.

4. **Policy analyses** conducted in ECE are very specific as they concentrate on developments in transition economies and on their relations with other countries of the ECE region. They are used in particular by UNCTAD in the preparation of the *Trade and Development Report* and by OSCE at the Economic Forum. In this domain, cooperation with OECD is invaluable as it produces in-depth analysis of its member countries and of the Russian Federation. ECE publications focus on the region, and most of them are produced at the request of a Prinicipal Subsidiary Body. Proposals for their review are made in the document entitled "Implementation of the Reform" (E/ECE/1361) which also contains a list of these publications.

5. **Conventions, norms, standards and guidelines** are the result of intergovernmental negotiations or debates. The main responsibility for avoiding duplication rests primarily with governments, while secretariats obviously have to keep themselves informed of what is done in other institutions. Duplication is avoided in part when intergovernmental bodies of each institution review the work programmes of other institutions and formulate their work programmes accordingly. However, even after such a review an institution may decide to develop its own instruments, taking into account the specific needs of its member countries. In such cases, what is important is that those instruments be <u>consistent</u> with those developed by entities, global, regional or subregional. In fact this has happened and concrete examples are provided in the paragraphs devoted to the European Union and to UNEP which show that inter-institutional dialogue avoids duplication and leads to constructive cooperation. In the same spirit, ECE has initiated active cooperation with ESCAP and ESCWA so as to inform them of the

instruments available which might be of interest to their member countries due to the similarity of problems or vicinity of territories.

6. Technical assistance is an area where risks of duplication and inconsistencies between institutions are the most apparent. Recipient countries address very similar requests to different organizations which are not inclined to refuse because requests for assistance are seen as recognition of competence. In addition, agencies providing assistance are poorly informed of what is available in substantive institutions. Systematic and continuous information about countries and programmes is therefore a prerequisite for the most rational use of expertise of each organisation. In this perspective, information on ECE conventions and norms should be actively promoted. Explicit agreements between institutions provide frameworks which, when used, are efficient in promoting coordinated assistance. Examples are described below and references are made to Memoranda of Understanding with the CIS, BSEC and CEI in document E/ECE/1359. At the county level efforts are being made to establish a more integrated approach to planning, programming and use of UN resources through the preparation of a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). To be effective, however, the authors of such a framework must be properly informed of the expertise available in all institutions.

7. On some matters, e.g. the promotion of SMEs microcredit, several institutions provide advice which, without being inconsistent, is sometimes confusing because of the language and the presentation. If the institutions concerned were to agree on common guidelines and use them in their assistance activities, this would avoid confusion and would be more efficient.

8. To sum up, a number of general principles govern successful cooperation between international organizations. These principles have to be applied by ECE and its partners. They include:

(a) Good communication :

Mutual exchange of information on activities in common areas of work. This requires consistency of member States' representation in different bodies, regular contacts between the corresponding secretariats through meetings and electronic forms of communication.

(b) Recognition of respective advantages :

Mutual recognition and use of the expertise and experience available in each organization; this is indispensable for the elaboration of common guidelines and prevents "reinvention of the wheel", which leads to a waste of resources, inconsistencies and duplication of activities.

(c) Collaboration :

Agreement on mutual contributions, joint activities and division of labour in areas of common concern; such agreements are more easily

reached when the previous principles are applied and their effective implementation implies regular working relationships between the secretariats of the organizations concerned.

I. COOPERATION WITH GLOBAL ENTITIES

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

9. Both ECE and UNCTAD develop activities in the areas of economic analysis, trade facilitation, investment promotion and transport. ECE focuses on the concerns of European countries, with both advanced and transition economies, primarily through economic analysis and the development of norms and conventions. UNCTAD concentrates on developing countries, primarily through development analysis, policy debates and operational activities.

10. In the field of economic analysis, cooperation is well established: the UNCTAD department in charge of the Trade and Development Report (TDR) draws on data provided and analyses made by ECE for the economies of the region - transition economies but also those of western Europe and North America. This complementarity is served by the timing of the publications in both organizations, taking into account the new format of the Economic Survey of Europe adopted since the ECE reform: an annual volume of three issues. For the TDR (to be finished by mid-June), the ECE can provide UNCTAD with Issue No. 1 of the Economic Survey of Europe and the draft of Issue No. 2. Subsequently, Issue No. 3 can be used by UNCTAD for its short New Year Review of the World Economy. Thanks to the consolidation and the frequent updating of its statistical database, the ECE will make available to UNCTAD the latest economic figures for all countries in the ECE region. Conversely, ECE can draw on UNCTAD when preparing its assessment of the global context for the ECE region.

11. In the field of trade facilitation, the respective strength of the two organizations and ITC leads to the following complementarity :

- ECE develops trade facilitation standards and recommendations for reducing and automating procedures and paperwork;
- ITC develops programmes and training in trade information;
- UNCTAD, through its trade efficiency programme, provides delivery mechanisms and assistance for the "products" developed by ECE and ITC as well as technical advice in trade areas not covered by the other two organizations.

12. UNCTAD has developed a Recommendation on the establishment of national Trade and Transport Facilitation Organizations. This could be perceived as a duplication with UN/ECE Recommendation No. 4 on National Trade Facilitation Organs. However, work is currently being undertaken to harmonize the two recommendations.

13. In operational activities, efforts are made to avoid duplications in the field of trade facilitation, promotion of investments and land locked countries. The overlapping and inconsistencies which emerged in 1997 were most often constructively solved by direct dialogue between the two institutions.

14. It is proposed that the Commission request the Executive Secretary to pursue this work and dialogue with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and report on progress achieved at the next session of the Commission.

15. In the field of transport, UNCTAD has prepared a Transit Transport Framework Agreement for the countries of Central Asia. This draft Agreement requests countries to accede to and implement a number of ECE legal instruments. However, it leaves out some existing or newly developed ECE legal instruments which are important and relevant for those countries. It also reproduces large excerpts of the texts of those legal instruments which could lead to confusion and divergencies as soon as either UNCTAD or ECE agreements are amended. As a major issue for the countries of Central Asia, is their integration into both Asian and European economies, it would have been wiser not to develop a new Agreement but rather to use existing instruments. In this spirit it is worth noting that following a Resolution adopted by ESCAP (Resolution 48/11, other countries in Asia, including non-ECE member countries such as China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan, are currently studying the accession to several ECE conventions.

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

16. UNEP has global programmes in the fields of awareness raising, environmental law, information systems and databases, while ECEs work in the field of environment has three major directions: (i) the "Environment for Europe" process; (ii) the development of regional conventions and related protocols; and (iii) the carrying out of Environmental Performance Reviews.

17. An examination of the programmes of the two organizations reveals that a major area for cooperation is environmental law. While ECE is the only forum for preparing and adopting conventions which are specific to the ECE region, UNEP is in a position to integrate these conventions into its world-wide work. UNEP can also share its global experience of capacity-building in environmental legislation by contributing to training activities organised by ECE on the implementation of regional conventions.

18. The issue of Persistant Organic Pollutants (POPs) provides a good example of synergy between the regional and global levels: ECE is developing a Protocol on POPs under its air pollution convention and UNEP has embarked on the development of a global legal instrument in the same area. Coordination is functioning well under the umbrella of the Inter-governmental Forum on Chemicals Safety. Furthermore, ECE provides information on regional approaches to POPs legislation within the global awareness-raising programme.

19. The possible involvement of UNEP in the Environmental Performance Reviews carried out under the aegis of ECE would contribute, in particular, to strengthening the legal and database components of such reviews.

20. In November 1997, a meeting between the Regional Office of UNEP for Europe and the ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division took place to look at potential synergies between the programmes of both organizations. It was agreed that such meetings will be held regularly in order to coordinate work and identify new opportunities for cooperation. The next one should take place just before the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Meeting (Århus, June, 1998).

HABITAT

21. Habitat is a global entity which provides policy guidelines and advice on a broad range of issues in the area of human settlements. It also has some technical assistance activities in terms of training and capacity-building, both with individual countries and through its regional training centres. These activities are mainly carried out in developing countries and regions.

22. ECE focuses its human settlements activities on a number of priority issues which are of special importance for countries in transition: effective housing policies and the promotion of market oriented reform, land administration, urban renewal and the implementation of sustainable human settlements policies. It has gained experience and developed networks for addressing these issues through seminars, studies, the gathering of case studies, and study tours.

23. Following the above, collaboration between ECE and Habitat will focus on the organization of joint training activities for countries in transition using the longstanding Habitat experience in the ECE countries in transition. In a recent meeting on cooperation between ECE and Habitat, it was decided to keep ECE advised on all ongoing activities in its region and that a meeting will be held in Geneva to define further activities to be carried out jointly.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

24. The main objective of the WTO is the development of a multilateral trade system and any new member has to comply with the rules adopted by the other members. Many ECE countries are still adapting their practices in order to comply with WTO rules. Several ECE working parties help transition countries to define and put in place the norms and standards which are an essential part of the regulatory environment necessary for WTO membership. But the secretariat for its part has no assistance activities linked to the accession process as this is done by UNCTAD and ITC secretariats.

25. ECE work in trade facilitation, norms and standard setting is directly relevant to WTO work on non-tariff barriers. This complementarity is now recognized: the ECE has an observer status at the WTO Committee on Technical

Barriers to Trade and may get the same status this year at the Council for Trade in Goods and Services where it may represent all the Regional Commissions.

26. The work of Working Party 4 and of its successor body, CEFACT, is being considered by WTO for eventual inclusion in its own global agreements. Cooperation between ECE and WTO is also well established regarding the implementation of Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) and Trade-Related Intellectual Property matters (TRIPs) in the transition countries. ECE's Working Party on International Contract Practices (WP.5) held a forum jointly with the World Bank in 1997 to assist investment promotion agencies to understand better WTO obligations. In 1998 a forum is planned jointly with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to promote better understanding of WTO intellectual property rules.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

27. Although the traditional role of UNDP has been to fund operational projects, it has, in recent years, become itself an implementing body. UNDP's presence in the ECE region began after the end of the cold War, when offices in countries in transition were established. This relatively new presence is the main reason why cooperation between ECE and UNDP, which relates primarily to environment, energy and statistics, has so far been rather limited.

28. Concerning the latter, cooperation has been established to improve demographic and social statistics in countries in transition. UNDP provides financial support which enables ECE to assist the national statistical offices of these countries in adopting and using common concepts and in improving their methodologies for statistics in these areas. This cooperation serves the purposes of both organizations: thanks to UNDP support, the ECE extends the region-wide availability of better and more comparable data to new sectors of activities, taking advantage of its long-standing relationships with national and international bodies for this purpose; on its part, UNDP publishes these data in its global Human Development Report (HDR) and its national HDRs on countries in transition; it also takes them into consideration when designing some of its operational programmes.

29. In energy, ECE obtains financing for its energy-efficiency demonstration zones in countries in transition from the UNDP/World Bank Global Environment Facility (GEF). The ECE Energy Efficiency 2000 Project enables municipal and national teams involved in these projects to have international exposure and experience which assists them in project formulation and increases their capacity to mobilize larger technical assistance grants. The replicability is another important dimension of this ECE/UNDP cooperation: the initial project in this area has served as a model for the development of further projects prepared with UNDP under national execution.

30. UNDP has drawn up a programme for countries in transition in the field of environment where ECE has developed conventions and protocols in the course

of the last two decades. So far the UNDP programme refers neither to these activities nor to the Environment for Europe process set up by the European Ministers of Environment and which is implemented jointly by several organizations of the region, with ECE acting as a catalyst. The objective of this process is to set out long-term environmental policy priorities at the pan-European level and to achieve high standards across the continent, with a support to countries having difficulties in implementing such standards.

31. In view of past experience, the main direction to take for rationalizing cooperation between ECE and UNDP is to have a better mutual knowledge of existing programmes and activities, to consult each other systematically when new ones are planned in common areas of work, and to act jointly when the contribution of both organizations reinforce effectiveness. This calls for annual meetings between the senior staff of the ECE and of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Central European and CIS countries. It is proposed that these consultations take place primarily in the fields of environment and sustainable development, but also in other areas where UNDP has started to develop activities (statistics, energy) or may do so in the future (e.g. trade and transport). To maximize the benefits, conclusions of the meetings should be sent to all participants and Resident Coordinators. They would guide and strengthen the existing working relationships between ECE staff members and their counterparts in UNDP country offices. Furthermore, this process would ensure that ECE expertise and networks are taken into account in the relevant UNDP activities as well as in the preparation of the national policy and programming frameworks, namely the country strategy notes (CSN) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

32. A concrete step towards improved cooperation was recently made: UNDP and ECE have agreed to support jointly the efforts of Central Asian countries in the preparation of a Convention on the Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea region, drawing upon ECE experience in developing normative environmental instruments in the region.

II. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ENTITIES

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

33. OSCE, with a membership almost identical to that of ECE, has a comprehensive approach to the establishment and maintenance of peace and security in Europe, involving political, economic and human dimensions. ECE is therefore a natural partner. Since the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (1971) the two organizations have developed cooperation based on their common membership and their complementarity of approaches. In particular, the ECE secretariat provides substantive support to the annual OSCE Economic Forums and to seminars addressing more focused economic issues. In 1997 the Parliamentarian Assembly of the OSCE organized, in cooperation with ECE, a colloquium devoted to the cooperation between OSCE, ECE and sub-regional institutions in Europe.

34. At its Jubilee Session, the ECE agreed that the relationships between the two organizations should be formalized in an appropriate manner. Now that OSCE has established the position of Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, the incumbent of which will be able to identify the early warning signals of threats to security stemming from economic environmental problems and draw upon the expertise available in economic and environmental institutions, it is foreseen that the cooperation between the two institutions will be further strengthened. To formalise this cooperation an exchange of letters is foreseen between the OSCE Secretary General and the ECE Executive Secretary. This will establish flexible and effective mechanisms for regular exchanges of views on programmes and advanced planning of mutual contributions.

35. Cooperation will be on a more solid basis if the OSCE develops its project of a model integrating the various dimensions of security - economic, social, institutional and political. Such an approach would build upon the basic idea that stability is best assured by the combination of the respect for the rule law, social consensus and economic efficiency. ECE can contribute substantially to the economic dimension of this integrated approach to security.

Council of Europe

36. The Council of Europe, whose membership is similar to that of ECE's, deals primarily with institutional issues, human rights, democracy and social matters. As is the case for OSCE, the Council of Europe can consider the ECE as a partner complementing its activities by providing contributions in economic and technical fields.

37. In view of this complementarity, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its Committee on Economic Affairs and Development regularly meet the ECE to discuss its analytical work on the economies of the region and regularly visit the Executive Secretary to present ECE work to one of its plenary session. Since 1990, three Parliamentary Conferences of the Council of Europe have also been organized jointly with the ECE on the progress on economic reform in central and eastern Europe.

38. Environmental matter is the only sector where duplication could emerge but this is prevented by a clear division of labour: ECE has a comprehensive agenda on environmental issues while the Council addresses issues related to pan-European biological and landscape diversity strategy.

III. INSTITUTIONS COVERING PART OF THE ECE REGION

39. As indicated, the subregional groupings and initiatives with which ECE cooperates, mainly in operational activities, are referred to in document E/ECE/1359.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

40. OECD gathers industrialised countries which adhere to the rules of market economy and democracy. Membership has enlarged since the end of the Cold War and several east European countries have joined. As OECD covers all the areas addressed by ECE and has a very strong secretariat, cooperation between the two institutions is particularly essential. Indeed, ECE and OECD have developed relationships in statistics, economic analysis, environment, agricultural quality standards, trade facilitation and investment promotion and through CEMT in transport.

41. In the economic analysis of transition economies, the approach of both institutions is complementary: OECD makes country studies, including on some of its non-member countries, on a rotating basis while ECE regularly analyses macro-economic developments in all countries of the region, examines interdependencies between them and with the rest of the world, and focuses on issues and problems related to transition processes. ECE is regularly invited to the meetings of the Economic and Development Review Committee of the OECD for countries in transition. Moreover, the complementarity in analytical work is still increasing since OECD is now pulling back from those countries in transition which have no prospects of joining the organization in the near future.

42. As regards the statistical data requirements for the economic analysis of west European and north-American countries, ECE relies heavily on data collected by OECD and other international organizations. On its part, ECE is the major provider of economic statistics for countries in transition.

43. In the field of the conceptual and methodological development of statistics, relationships are also well established, with clear practices of cooperation. OECD is among the key intergovernmental organizations which actively participate in the Conference of European Statisticians, the ECE Principal Subsidiary Body in this area and its head of statistics is a permanent observer in the Bureau of the Conference. Within this framework and together with the European Union (EUROSTAT), the IMF and the World Bank, it thus plays an important role in the harmonization of the programmes of work of all organisations active in the region.

44. Specific working relationships have been developed between OECD and ECE in agricultural statistics and national accounts of economies in transition. In both domains, OECD used to provide experts and financing for training and legal assistance seminars for Central and East European countries as well as to CIS countries. Through lack of resources, however it is now withdrawing from such activities which might be shifted to ECE provided that additional resources are made available for this purpose.

45. In the field of standards for fruit and vegetables, OECD takes up those prepared and adopted by UN/ECE. They are integrated into the "OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables". Membership to the Scheme is open to non OECD members provided that they can demonstrate the conformity of their legislation and that they have an

established inspection programme. So far, the OECD has supported the setting up of inspectorates and publicized the quality standards through brochures which the ECE has used for facilitating dissemination and for its training workshops. From January 1998, the OECD programme is financed through voluntary contributions only. This may weaken the control mechanisms and indirectly reduce the observance of the norms. Its is proposed that OECD and ECE seek a solution to this problem together, in view of their complementary involvement on the matter.

46. In the field of the environment, OECD focuses its work on studies and recommendations on economic tools for environmental protection while ECE develops conventions and norms, and provides assistance for their implementation, particularly in countries in transition.

47. At the country-level, OECD conducts Environmental Performance Reviews for its members and ECE applies basically the same methodology for countries in transition. There is a close collaboration between the two organizations, particularly for those ECE countries which may become members of OECD.

48. In the field of trade facilitation, OECD has published a study on "The economic dimension of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) 1996" and a discussion paper on "Dismantling the barriers to global electronic commerce", prepared for a meeting organized in Turku (Finland), in November 1997. The role of ECE and CEFACT is not well defined in these studies and there is a need for a recognized cooperation in this area, along the lines mentioned above for the environment: OECD deals with the economic dimension of electronic standards, while the ECE deals with norms and standards setting.

49. In investment promotion, the secretariats of OECD and ECE work closely together in informing transition economies of best practices in investment promotion, as demonstrated in the UN/ECE Forum on the "Prospects for Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the Transition Economies" in October 1997 and in a joint follow-up to the Forum organized by OECD in Riga, (Latvia) in November 1997.

50. An opportunity for furthering this cooperation will take place when the work on the OECD's Multilateral Agreement on Investment is concluded: OECD will be interested in using ECE's good offices to disseminate the instrument to OECD non-members; ECE will be interested in examining whether the framework established corresponds adequately to the interests of its members. To this end a joint review conference could be organized in 1999.

51. In future, cooperation between ECE and OECD must be seen in the changing context of both institutions: the ECE reform and the potential further extension of OECD membership to countries outside and/or in the ECE region combined with budgetary constraints. It is proposed that, in the light of these changes, a meeting at the senior management level take place between ECE and OECD in order to examine the long-term directions for cooperation between the two organizations. This would set the framework for regular consultations

to be subsequently held for each common area of work, between the corresponding ECE divisions and OECD Directorates.

European Union (EU)

52. In view of its economic weight and its common position on an increasing number of issues, the European Union plays a major role in the shaping of the ECE strategic directions and the implementation of its activities. The EU and the ECE have mutually beneficial relationships based on the complementarity of their memberships and on their common concern for countries in transition.

53. Having a more limited membership than the ECE, the EU has developed bilateral "partnership agreements" with a number of other ECE member countries. The ECE serves as a multilateral forum for dialogue between EU and non EU countries on issues calling for regional agreements or policy debates. This occurs in particular in the field of norms and standards, with a "two- way dynamics": a number of ECE legally binding instruments are translated into EU legislation and sometimes EU legislation are used as a model when drafting legal instruments for the whole ECE region.

54. The EU and the ECE have also developed mutually reinforcing linkages in the support which they provide to transition processes in eastern and central Europe and in CIS countries. These countries actually benefit from the political leverage and the economic means of the former, and from the well-established network of expertise of the latter.

55. Taking advantage of these basic complementarities, the ECE and the European Commission have numerous collaborative activities, especially but not exclusively, in the areas of statistics, transport, environment and trade.

Statistics

56. Like the OECD (see para. 43), EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Commission, is a key international institution which participates actively in the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau, as permanent observer. The statistical work plans of EUROSTAT are integrated in the annual Joint Presentation of Work Programmes of all organizations having statistical activities in the region. Furthermore, about a quarter of ECE meetings are organized jointly with EUROSTAT.

57. The ECE relies heavily on EUROSTAT for statistics on the EU countries, while the latter benefits from the ECE access to statistical data on countries in transition. The two organizations work jointly on specific issues. An example of such cooperation is the ECE/EUROSTAT joint preparation of recommendations for the "2000 Population and Housing Census".

58. Furthermore, EUROSTAT has agreed that PHARE and TACIS funds be used for ensuring the participation of countries in transition to a selected number of ECE/EUROSTAT meetings organized by the Conference of European Statisticians.

This is essential for developing common concepts and methodologies, and subsequently comparable data in all countries of the region. It is therefore expected that this practice will continue, even though EU funds are currently being concentrated in countries in transition which have applied for EU membership.

Transport

59. The two-way cooperation mentioned above on normative activities is particularly effective in this sector (e.g. for norms on vehicle construction and transport of dangerous goods). More generally, the EU is a Contracting Party to a number of ECE legal instruments on transport and actively contributes to their development or revision, as demonstrated in the case of the TIR Convention.

60. The Pan-European Transport Conferences which have been organized by the EU in cooperation with other international organizations including ECE, address in particular the issue of region-wide transport infrastructure corridors. The follow-up to the third Conference (Helsinki, June 1997) will be made jointly by the European Conference of Transport Ministers (ECMT), the EU and the ECE. There is a need to focus infrastructure development in central and eastern Europe on corridors of Pan-European interest and it is recognized that ECE is the most experienced organization in this area through its work on the development of common methodologies for infrastructure planning, through its pan-European networks for road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport contained respectively in the AGR, AGC, AGN and AGTC agreements, as well as through its Trans European Motorway (TEM) and Trans European Railway (TER) Projects.

61. The ECE, the only regional institution which has a long-standing expertise and strong secretariat in both sectors, organized a Ministerial Conference on Transport and Environment in November 1997 in Vienna. It has been agreed that the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Joint Action adopted at the Conference will be performed jointly by the ECE Inland Transport Committee and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy. Furthermore, the ECMT, the EU and the ECE will closely coordinate their follow-up activities.

Environment

62. As in the field of transport, the EU adopts strategies and sets up Directives which enable its member countries to fulfill their obligations under the ECE Conventions, in particular the Conventions on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, on Environmental Impact Assessment, and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Furthermore, through the PHARE and TACIS programmes, the EU provides financial assistance to 12 countries in transition for field projects related to the ECE Transboundary Waters Convention.

63. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the ECE and the European Environmental Agency (EEA) of the EU in September 1996. The major fields of cooperation are the Environmental Programme for Europe, Environmental Performance Reviews, Air Emission Inventories and Monitoring and Assessment Mechanisms.

Trade

64. Under the auspices of the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, the ECE and the EU have well-established cooperation. For example, the European Commission helped to finance, with the World Bank, the 1997 Investment Forum and makes a continuing and significant contribution to the Western European Edifact Board. In the case of agriculture, the ECE sets quality standards for fresh and dried produce which are translated into relevant EU directives and regulations. In the chemical sector, the ECE and the EU have a joint project on chemical legislation the CHEMLEX (comparative database of national legislation regarding chemicals) which is funded by the EU, and carried out by the ECE in cooperation with the EU.

Other areas

65. The EU provides support to technical assistance activities in other ECE areas of work; in particular to the ECE Programme on forest resource assessment and to the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project. It also supports the South East European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) by sending experts for the project group meetings on gas, transport infrastructure, border-crossing facilitation and SMEs.

66. It is envisaged to harmonize guidelines on SMEs, through a quadripartite cooperation between the EBRD, the OECD, the EU and the ECE, all of which have guidelines in this area. This approach could be followed for other issues.

67. The long-term relationships between the EU and the ECE must be seen against the background of the expanding membership of the EU and the uneven economic situation of countries not members of the Union. It is proposed that a discussion at the highest executive level of both organizations take place in order to determine how the ECE framework can be best used for fostering cooperation between the EU and the different categories of non EU countries. The areas and the main tools for such cooperation should be identified. This would then be further refined, implemented and regularly adjusted through strengthened working relationships between the relevant EC Directorates General and ECE Divisions.

IV. [illegible]

68. It emerges from the above that the work of ECE is largely complementary to that of other institutions; either the division of labour is clear or, if not, complementarity has been more often secured through intersecretarial dialogue and intergovernmental scrutiny.

UNITED
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E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1363
16 February 1998

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-third session
(Provisional Agenda item 3 (d))

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECE REFORM

Note by the Chairman of the Commission on his consultations related to the biennalization of the annual sessions of the Commission

1. In accordance with the decision taken at the 52nd Annual Session, the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work discussed the note prepared by the Executive Secretary on the advisability of the biennalization of the Commission session and the feasibility of moving the date of the annual session from April to November.

2. At the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission, held on 6 November 1997, the Chairman of the group of experts reported that the questions included in the note of the Executive Secretary had been twice on the agenda of the group, but no agreement had been reached in the matter. The Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission had extensively discussed the proposal on biennalization. This meeting indicated that while the majority of member countries was in favour of the concept of biennalization, a number of delegations had serious reservations about the immediate acceptance of the proposal. In the light of this situation the meeting asked the Chairman of the Commission to conduct consultations in the matter.

3. At the end of November and the beginning of December, with the involvement of the other members of the Bureau and the Executive Secretary, I consulted with the representatives of those countries which had expressed reservations about biennalization.

4. At the consultations, the consulted countries showed flexibility and they stated that they did not oppose the concept of biennalization as such. They take the view, however, that the proposal needs further study and refinement and they need more time for the acceptance of the concept. These countries have identified a number of considerations which form the basis of their reservations:

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- At present, the sessions of the Commission provide the only forum where member countries can discuss major developments in the ECE region at high-level. Therefore, if the frequency of the sessions was reduced already from 1998, a year which is expected to be of great importance for European issues, a number of countries could feel that they were deprived of a unique possibility for dialogue with other member states. In that case, the same countries could conclude that biennalization would work against, rather than for strengthening of European cooperation;

- Biennalization would result in looser political and professional controls and monitoring regarding the activities of the Commission and the Secretariat;

- Contacts between ECE and sectoral ministries and other institutions would become less intense; visibility of the Commission would suffer;

- Biennalization would cause a vacuum which could be filled by other international organizations.

5. On 17 December, at an informal meeting, I informed local representatives about the results of the consultations. On behalf of the Bureau, I suggested the following:

- due to the lack of consensus, for the April session no draft resolution should be introduced to the Commission on biennalization;

- at the April session, I would inform the Commission about the consultations and make some proposals on how to continue with the question of biennalization.

6. Based on results of the consultations and the discussion which took place at the December informal meeting I suggest that:

- **the Group of Experts should be asked by the Commission to continue the examination of relevant legal and other aspects of biennalization, taking into account the views expressed during the consultations and should report its finding to the Commission.**

7. In the light of the positions expressed by different delegations in the last months, I take the view that we have good chances for finding an acceptable solution on the question of biennalization. During my consultations I felt that all countries have been convinced that the reform of the ECE requires changes both in format and content of the sessions of the Commission. Support was expressed by many for sessions of the Commission which concentrate on substantive developments in the ECE area giving possibility for all members to express their views on these developments and to have the opportunity to engage in substantial discussion in these matters. "More substance, less housekeeping", was the overwhelming position.

8. Biennalization is not a concept which has been imposed on the ECE. It forms part of the Plan of Action in the areas of budgeting and governance of the organization. Therefore, my personal conviction is that we may find a compromise solution which could include the idea that in every second year the emphasis should be on substantive matters which are of importance to all members, while in "off years", the emphasis should be on organizational matters. In the context of biennalisation, it would be justified to review the existing rules on convening of ad hoc meetings of the Commission with the objective of making them more flexible. The role of the bureau of the Commission and the usefulness of having more frequent informal contacts among delegations and the secretariat should also be examined.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1364
12 February 1998

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-third session

INFORMATION NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. The following tentative schedule for the regular meetings of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies has been established, in accordance with the decisions taken by those bodies, for the period between the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission. In conformity with the provisions of the Plan of Action, PSBs will hold their respective annual session during the period January-September. An exception has had to be made in 1998 for the Committee on Sustainable Energy, due to the heavy schedule of meetings at UNOG.

1998	Conference of European Statisticians	18-20 May
	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	16-18 June
	Committee on Human Settlements	14-16 September
	Timber Committee	28 September-1 October
	Committee on Environmental Policy	28 September-2 October
	Committee on Sustainable Energy	7-9 October
1999	Inland Transport Committee	8-11 February

Meetings and study tours

2. In 1997 the ECE held a total of 593 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations. Of these half-days of meetings, 15 were held outside Geneva, 35 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods and 67 were for meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range

Transboundary Air Pollution. In addition 36 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities. For purposes of comparison the equivalent figures for the period 1990-1997 are given below:

	Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva UN interpretation	Outside Geneva Host authorities interpretation
1990	755	73	91
1991	651	20	113
1992	556	24	104
1993	598	8	94
1994	615	34	92
1995	655	16	62
1996	631	32	55
1997	578	15	36

3. The meetings held outside Geneva in 1997 under the auspices of the Commission took place at the invitation of the Governments of the following countries: Austria (2), Canada (1); Czech Republic (1); Denmark (1); Finland (1); Hungary (1); Italy (2); Poland (1); Portugal (1); Russian Federation (1); Sweden (1); Switzerland (1); Turkey (1); United Kingdom (1); and at the invitation of OECD (1).

4. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that such meetings are organized only if the subsidiary body concerned has accepted an invitation extended by the host Government and that this decision is clearly reflected in the report of the body concerned. Moreover, the host Government is obliged, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/202, to bear the additional costs of meetings attributable to the venue being away from the Commission's headquarters.

5. Study Tours were held in Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and the Republic of Korea.

Documentation

6. The following data (in terms of pages reproduced in the three working languages of the Commission) have been compiled and supplied by the Statistical Unit of the Editorial and Documents Control Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. For purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the period 1990-1997 have been provided:

Year	Total physical pages reproduced in English, French and Russian
1990	96,642
1991	94,988
1992	88,905
1993	96,373
1994	91,062
1995	94,131
1996	89,148
1997	85,910